Father De smet,

I am Father De Smet. I was born in Dendermonde (Belgium) in 1801.Four delegations of Salish and Nez Perce requested a black robe. I established the St. (Stevensville) in 1841.The first farm in Montana was established by me at St. Mary’s. I traveled over 180,000 miles in North America and Europe. I was ordained a Jesuit Priest at Florissant, MO in 1823.I traveled old trails to St. Ignatius in September 1863.The Belgian-born Jesuit missionary had established his legacy in the Rocky Mountain West20 years and more earlier one that included the founding of Montana’s first permanent in the white settlement at St. Mary’s Mission in the Bitterroot Valley. Montana wasn’t Montana yet-territorial status was nine months away-and I was 62. I was on a different sort of journey. He had journeyed up the Missouri by Steamboat to deliver goods to the Indian missions along the way.